NUMB. XCII.

The GUARDIAN.

Homunculi quanti ſunt, cum recogito! Plautus.

Friday, June 26. 1713.

To NESTOR IRONSIDE, *Eſq;*

SIR,

'THE Club riſing early this Evening, I 'have time to finiſh my Account of it. 'You are already acquainted with the 'Nature and Deſign of our Inſtitution; 'the Characters of the Members, and the Topicks 'of our Converſation, are what remain for the 'Subject of this Epiſtle.

'The moſt eminent Perſons of our Aſſembly are 'a little Poet, a little Lover, a little Politician, and 'a little Heroe. The firſt of theſe, *Dick Diſtick* 'by Name, we have elected Preſident, not only 'as he is the ſhorteſt of us all, but becauſe he has 'entertain'd ſo juſt a Senſe of the Stature, as to go 'generally in Black that he may appear yet Leſs. 'Nay, to that Perfection is he arrived, that he *ſtoops* 'as he walks. The Figure of the Man is odd e-'nough; he is a lively little Creature, with long 'Arms and Legs: A Spider is no ill Emblem of 'him. He has been taken at a Diſtance for a *ſmall* 'Windmill. But indeed what principally moved 'us in his Favour was his Talent in Poetry, for 'he hath promiſed to undertake a long Work in '*ſhort Verſe* to celebrate the Heroes of our Size. 'He has entertained ſo great a Reſpect for *Statius*, 'on the Score of that Line,

'Major in exiguo regnabat corpore virtus,

'that he once deſigned to tranſlate the whole *Thebaid* 'for the ſake of little *Tydeus*.

'*Tom. Tiptoe*, a dapper black Fellow, is the moſt 'gallant Lover of the Age. He is particularly nice in 'his Habiliments; and to the end Juſtice may be done 'him that way, conſtantly employs the ſame Artiſt 'who makes Attire for the neighb'ring Princes 'and Ladies of Quality at Mr. *Powel*'s. The Vi-'vacity of his Temper inclines him ſometimes to 'boaſt of the Favours of the Fair. He was, 'tother 'Night, excuſing his Abſence from the Club on 'Account of an Aſſignation with a Lady, (and, as 'he had the Vanity to tell us, a Tall one too) who 'had conſented to the full Accompliſhment of his 'Deſires that Evening. But one of the Company, 'who was his Confident, aſſured us ſhe was a 'Woman of Humour, and made the Agreement 'on this Condition, That his Toe ſhould be tied 'to hers.

'Our *Politician* is a Perſon of *real Gravity*, and '*profeſſed Wiſdom*. Gravity in a Man of this Size, 'compared with that of one of ordinary Bulk, ap-'pears like the Gravity of a Cat compared with 'that of a Lion. This Gentleman is accuſtomed 'to talk to himſelf, and was once over-heard to 'compare his own Perſon to a *little Cabinet*, where-'in are locked up all the Secrets of State, and re-'fined Schemes of Princes. His Face is pale and 'meager, which proceeds from much watching and 'ſtudying for the Welfare of *Europe*, which is alſo 'thought to have ſtinted his Growth: For he hath 'deſtroyed his own Conſtitution with taking care 'of that of the Nation. He is what Monſ. *Balzac* 'calls *a great Diſtiller of the Maxims of* Tacitus: 'When he Speaks, it is ſlowly and Word by Word, 'as one that is loth to enrich you too faſt with his 'Obſervations; like a Limbeck that gives you, Drop 'by Drop, an Extract of the Simples in it.

'The laſt I ſhall mention is *Tim. Tuck*, the Hero. 'He is particularly remarkable for the length of 'his Sword, which interſects his Perſon in a croſs 'Line, and makes him appear not unlike a Fly, 'that the Boys have run a Pin thro', and ſet a walk-'ing. He once challenged a tall Fellow for giving 'him a blow on the Pate with his Elbow as he 'paſs'd along the Street. But what he eſpecially 'values himſelf upon is, that in all the Campaigns 'he has made, he never once *Duck'd* at the whizz 'of a Cannon Ball. *Tim.* was full as large at four-'teen Years old as he is now. This we are tender 'of mentioning, your little Heroes being generally 'Cholerick.

'Theſe are the Gentlemen that moſt enliven our 'Converſation: The Diſcourſe generally turns up-'on ſuch Accidents, whether Fortunate or Unfor-'tunate, as are daily occaſioned by our Size: Theſe 'we faithfully communicate, either as Matter of 'Mirth, or of Conſolation to each other. The Pre-'ſident had lately an unlucky Fall, being unable to 'keep his Legs on a Stormy Day; whereupon he 'informed

(Price Two Pence.)